CLAIMS:-

1.   A pharmaceutical composition for protection of an animal against a disease-causing agent, the composition comprising
5 a non-infectious nucleic acid construct encoding a recombinant antibody to that agent.

2.   A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 wherein the animal is a mammal or a fish.
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3.   A pharmaceutical composition according to either of claims 1 or 2 wherein the animal has a deficient immune system.

15 4.   A pharmaceutical composition according to any preceding claim wherein the disease-causing agent is a pathogen, an allergen or a toxic substance.

5.   A pharmaceutical composition according to any preceding
20 claim wherein the protection is prophylactic.

6.   A pharmaceutical composition according to any preceding claim wherein the encoded recombinant antibody is derived from an antibody raised against the disease-causing agent.
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7.   A pharmaceutical composition according to any preceding claim wherein the encoded antibody molecule comprises variable domains of immunoglobulin Heavy and Light chain genes linked together by a linker sequence.
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8.   A pharmaceutical composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the nucleic acid construct further comprises a gene sequence encoding a secretion signal peptide.
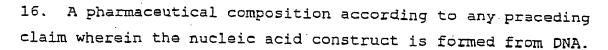
9. A pharmaceutical composition according to any preceding claim comprising genes encoding antibody molecules to several different epitopes of the disease-causing agent.

5 10. A pharmaceutical composition according to any preceding claim comprising a gene-expression library encoding antibodies to the disease-causing agent.

11. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 10 wherein the gene expression library encodes single-chain antibody molecules to the disease-causing agent.

12. A pharmaceutical composition according to any preceding claim wherein the encoded recombinant antibody is a virus-15 neutralising antibody.

13. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12 wherein the encoded virus-neutralising antibody is single chain molecule.

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14. A pharmaceutical composition according to any preceding claim including a nucleic acid construct encoding a viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus VHSV-neutralising monoclonal antibody 3F1H10 with two amino acids substituents in the H-25 chain gene respectively Asn 35a to Thr and Lys 64 to Thr and with the secretion signal of rainbow trout transforming growth factor (TGF-beta) added to the 5' end of the gene.

15. A pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 30 4 to 11 wherein when the disease-causing agent is an allergen the antibody molecule is derived from an antibody raised against IgE molecules.

AMENDED SHEET

16. A pharmaceutical composition according to any preceding claim wherein the nucleic acid construct is formed from DNA.

17. A pharmaceutical composition according to any preceding
5 claim wherein the composition is in the form of a vaccine, dosage form, cream, ointment, liquid or paint.

18. A pharmaceutical composition according to any preceding claim wherein the composition is for delivery by injection,
10 spray or gene gun.

19. A method of treating an animal comprising administering thereto a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in any of claims 1 to 18.

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20. A pharmaceutical composition according to any preceding claim, for use to confer protection against a disease caused by a pathogen, an allergen or a toxin.